

NORMAN FORWARD

Frequently Asked Questions

When is the election?

Tuesday, **October 13, 2015**. Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

What are the early voting dates?

If you are a registered voter in Norman, you can vote at the Cleveland County Election Board from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 8th, and Friday, October 9th, prior to the election. The Cleveland County Election Board is located at 641 E. Robinson Street, Suite 200. Absentee ballot applications can be obtained by contacting the Cleveland County Election Board by phone at (405) 366 - 0210 during business hours or by downloading the form at www.clevelandcountyelectionboard.com.

What are the primary purposes of the tax?

The one half of one percent (1/2%) sales tax increase will provide a funding source for the Quality of Life projects included in the NORMAN FORWARD package.

Will there be citizen oversight of the sales tax?

Yes. The proposal requires formation of a Citizen Review Board prior to expenditures.

Why is a 15 year tax necessary?

The limited term tax for 15 years is estimated to generate the revenues needed to fund the Quality of Life projects included in the NORMAN FORWARD package.

How were the projects selected?

Norman community groups and stakeholders presented a list of Quality of Life projects to the City, which was then refined through City Council conferences and public meetings to form the NORMAN FORWARD package.

When would the rate increase go into effect?

January 1, 2016.

For additional information, please contact:

The City of Norman Action Center at (405) 366-5396 or Action.Center@NormanOK.gov or the City's website: www.normanok.gov.

NORMAN FORWARD

General Project Overview (estimated cost)

- **Library System Improvements (\$44M)** —Central Branch & East Branch: November 2014 Library Master Plan Update recommended construction of Library branches as part of the Library system.
 - Central Library Branch: Approximately 82,000 sq. ft. Proposed location north of Andrews Park.
 - East Library Branch: Approximately 12,500 sq. ft. Proposed location next to Fire Station No. 9 (intersection of Alameda and Ridge Lake Boulevard).
- **Senior Citizen Center**—Either through renovations of an existing facility or construction of a new freestanding facility.
 - Funded by voter authorized General Obligations Bonds in 2008 or NORMAN FORWARD sales tax proceeds.
 - To be located in the vicinity of Andrews Park or other reasonably available site.
- **James Garner Avenue (i.e. Front Street) Extension (\$6M)**
 - Extend James Garner Avenue from Acres Street to Robinson Street underpass.
 - Two-lane roadway.
- **Indoor Aquatic Facility (\$14M)**
 - Includes competitive and recreational pools.
 - Potentially located adjacent to YMCA.
 - To seek operating partnerships with YMCA, Norman Public Schools, Norman Regional Hospital and Sooner Swim Club.
- **Westwood Pool and Westwood Tennis Center (\$13M)**
 - Existing pool facilities replaced with new family aquatic center to include components such as water slides, recreation pool (with zero depth entry), play/spray features, lazy river, lap pool, diving area, large shaded deck, special event area, new bathhouse, concession facilities and additional parking.
 - Conversion of two existing tennis courts to an indoor facility and construct two new outdoor courts with lighting and site furnishings.
- **Reaves Park Baseball Complex Improvements (\$10M)**
 - Remove six existing adult softball fields and existing park maintenance facility and construct 14 youth baseball/softball fields with lighting, restrooms, concession facilities and additional parking.
 - Youth baseball complex (six fields), Kidspace, Veterans Memorial and existing festival and picnic areas (central and southwest) to remain as currently constructed.
- **New Softball and Football Complex (\$2.5M)**
 - New +/-25 acre site to accommodate five-field softball complex and eight-field football complex, with lighting, restroom and concession facilities and parking.
- **Griffin Park Soccer Complex Improvements (\$11M)**
 - Remove 14 existing youth baseball/softball and four adult flag football fields.
 - Construct nine new outdoor soccer fields with lighting.
 - Convert one soccer field to indoor soccer facility.
 - New net field count to be one indoor and 20 outdoor fields.
 - Construct new Park Maintenance Facility.
- **Multi-Sport Facility (\$8.5M)**
 - Accommodate indoor sports including, but not limited to, basketball and volleyball.
 - Replace WWII hangar gym east of YMCA.
- **Acquire Land owned by others, but currently utilized as Griffin Park, Sutton Wilderness and Frances Cate Park (\$10M)**
- **Canadian River Park (\$2M)**
 - Development of trail facilities and enhancements, if land is acquired.
 - Park area would be located south of Lindsey Street, west of I-35.
- **Community Parks (\$9.5M)**
 - Ruby Grant Park: Develop Phase I with utility infrastructure improvements, signage, parking, walking and running trails, practice fields, pavilion and pedestrian lighting.
 - Saxon Park: Develop Phase II of 2009 Norman Parks and Recreation Master Plan to include additional parking, decorative fencing, site furnishings, children's play area, restroom facilities and event shelter.
 - Andrews Park: Splash pad enhancement, shade for amphitheater seating, skate park expansion and additional tree plantings.
- **Neighborhood Parks and Trail Development (\$14.5M)**
 - New signage, decorative fencing, site furnishings, walking trails, trees and playground shade structures, additional playground equipment, picnic pavilions, additional soccer goals and backstops at existing neighborhood parks.
 - Development of neighborhood parks at Cedar Lane, Southlake/St. James, Summit Valley/Bellatona, Redlands and Links additions.
 - Construction of Legacy Trail Loop Extension
- **Public Art**—At locations to be approved by City Council in an aggregated amount not to exceed 1% of construction costs of major facilities and improvement costs at community parks.
- **Infrastructure Improvements (\$3M)**—traffic analysis, street and storm water improvements, and traffic signals at various project locations.





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City of Norman

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Email: action.center@normanok.gov

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Building an Inclusive Community

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
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Permit # 295
Norman OK



City of Norman

201 West Gray

Norman, OK 73069

Phone: 405.366.5396

Email: action.center@normanok.gov

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Fast Facts

Special Election: October 13, 2015

Limited term 1/2% Sales Tax increase for 15 years

Requires a Citizen Review Board prior to expenditures.

NORMAN FORWARD Quality of Life projects:

- Library System Improvements
- James Garner Avenue Extension
- Indoor Aquatic Facility
- Westwood Pool & Westwood Tennis Center Improvements
- Reaves Park Baseball Complex Improvements
- New Softball and Football Complex
- Griffin Park Soccer Complex Improvements
- New Multi-Sport Facility
- Park Land Acquisition
- Community Park Improvements
- Existing and New Neighborhood Park Renovations/Development
- New Trail Development and Canadian River Park
- Senior Center

Effective: January 1, 2016

NORMAN FORWARD

Special Election October 13, 2015



On Tuesday, **October 13, 2015**, Norman residents will be asked to vote on a proposed one half of one percent (1/2%) Sales Tax increase to fund NORMAN FORWARD Quality of Life Projects.

NORMAN FORWARD is a citizen-initiated proposal to renovate, expand, construct and fund Quality of Life projects, such as multiple recreational facilities, libraries, parks, athletic venues, public art, trails, swim complexes and other quality of life projects throughout Norman. The initiative came to the City Council from community groups, stakeholders and Norman residents, who prepared an initial package using analysis and information from recreational planning professionals and research firms.

Beginning in the Spring 2015, the Norman City Council began a series of Council conferences and additional public meetings to refine the project scope, financing and funding opportunities for the NORMAN FORWARD initiative. This initiative includes a number of high priority projects outlined in the 2014 Library Master Plan Update, the 2009 Norman Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and additional projects designed to provide recreational opportunities for Norman residents.

The NORMAN FORWARD package includes the following proposed projects:

- Library System Improvements—Central Branch and East Branch
- James Garner Avenue Extension
- Indoor Aquatic Facility
- Westwood Pool & Westwood Tennis Center Improvements
- Reaves Park Baseball Complex Improvements
- New Softball and Football Complex
- Griffin Park Soccer Complex Improvements
- Multi-Sport Facility (replace WWII hangar east of YMCA)
- Park Land Acquisition—Griffin, Sutton Wilderness and Cate Parks
- Community Park projects at Ruby Grant, Andrews and Saxon Parks
- Existing and New Neighborhood Park Renovations and Development
- New Trail Development and Canadian River Park
- Senior Center
- Public Art at selected locations



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Special Election—NORMAN FORWARD—Tuesday, October 13, 2015



Your Vote Matters

Polls are open from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm

Special Election
Tuesday, October 13, 2015

Early Voting: If you are a registered voter in Norman, you can vote prior to the election at the Cleveland County Election Board from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm on Thursday, October 8, and Friday, October 9. The Cleveland County Election Board is located at 641 E. Robinson Street, Suite 200. Absentee ballot applications can be obtained by contacting the Cleveland County Election Board by phone at 405-366-0210 during business hours or downloading the form from the website at: www.clevelandcountyelectionboard.com.

PROPOSITION

“Shall Ordinance 0-1516-5 amending Sections 8-403 and 8-416 of Chapter 8 of the Code of Ordinances to provide for a limited term and limited purpose Norman Forward Quality of Life Projects Sales Tax, levying and assessing a sales tax of one half of one percent (1/2%) from the effective date in addition to present city and state sales taxes upon the gross proceeds or gross receipts derived from all sales to any person taxable under the sales tax law of Oklahoma; providing for the additional one half of one percent (1/2%) sales tax to terminate fifteen (15) years after its effective date; to be used, to the extent feasible from the revenues generated hereby, for the specified Norman Forward Quality of Life Projects set out in detail in Ordinance 0-1516-5 which includes: providing a new Central Library and East Side Facility to the Library System; providing for a Senior Citizen Center; improving and extending James Garner Avenue; acquiring certain land currently utilized by the City of Norman and known as Griffin Park, Sutton Wilderness, Frances Cate Park; providing a Canadian River park; providing an Indoor Aquatics Facility; improving Westwood Pool; improving City parks throughout the City; providing for Public Art; providing Sport Complex Improvements at Griffin Park for soccer fields and facilities; providing Sport Complex Improvements at Reaves Park for baseball fields and facilities; providing Sport Complex Improvements and Facilities for softball and football; providing Multi-Sport Complex Improvements and Facilities for indoor sports including but not limited to basketball and volleyball; providing for a Citizens Review Board to ensure funds generated pursuant to this Ordinance are spent for purposes provided herein; providing for maintenance, operations and reserves; and for debt service if incurred for the above purposes, and providing that the additional one half of one percent (1/2%) shall begin to be levied on the first (1st) day of January, 2016, be approved?”

☐ YES—FOR THE PROPOSITION

☐ NO—AGAINST THE PROPOSITION